



9TH NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON CIVIL REGISTRATION

#napapanahongCRVS

SMX Convention Center, Pasay City • 5-7 June 2018

Highlights of *Day 1*

5 June 2018

9NWCR commences at SMX

The 9th National Workshop on Civil Registration formally commenced today at SMX Convention Center in Pasay City with the theme #napapanahongCRVS.

The three-day event was started with the singing of the Doxology and the Philippine National Anthem led by the PUP Bagong Himig Serenata.

Immediately afterwards, Engr. Alberto Jose Paredes, Chief of Staff of the host local government unit (LGU) delivered the welcome address, on behalf of Mayor Antonino Calixto of Pasay City. According to him the LGU, particularly the Office of the Mayor, expresses its gratitude for the PSA for organizing, once again, the convention in the City. He assured that everyone is welcome in the City Government's Office, 24/7, 5 days a week.

He likewise reminded the participants how important it is to put one's heart in helping our fellow Filipinos (*"importanteng may puso sa pagtulong sa kababayan"*). He also emphasized on how important data are as well as the role of all LCRs and other stakeholders in the registration of vital events. Thus, it is always a must to go back to our mandate and serve the public well particularly those in need.

Usec Lisa Grace Bersales, National Statistician and Civil Registrar General of the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) officially opened the 9NWCR and she was pleased to announce that the event is being hosted by the City of Pasay and PSA-National Capital Region (NCR).

In her message, she stressed on this year's theme which is #napapanahongCRVS. "Napapanahon," according to her it also means that each Filipino should have legal identity and each should have a document to prove that he or she is a Filipino. She expressed that "we are all here to make that happen."

She added that the theme likewise connotes relevant, timely and accurate CRVS that addresses the needs of time, and in tune with the current data landscape. It is about computer assisted processes, big data, and data revolution. She expressed hope that the 9NWCR will further uplift partnership and will encourage debate of ideas.

She ended her opening remarks with a call on the participants to continue to work together in order for the Filipino citizens to be provided with the right products and services, to ensure that everyone gets in the picture and no one is left behind. She also emphasized on the importance of vital statistics which come from the civil registration documents that serve as inputs for better government planning.

After his brief warm greetings to all guests and participants, Assistant Secretary Daniel Ariaso Sr., Deputy National



Statistician of the PSA-Civil Registration and Central Support Office introduced the invited guest that will deliver the keynote message.

Associate Justice Karl Miranda of Sandiganbayan, in his message focused on how vital statistics relate to civil registration and why is civil registration important.

He cited the United Nations Development Program Human Development Reports which provided that the birth certificate is a legal document that gives identity and right to nationality while a death certificate helps the family of the deceased to inherit property. Moreover, civil registration is vital for national planning and records are necessary to get vital statistics leading towards formulating how much and what type of services to provide to constituents. Accurate and complete Vital Statistics are indispensable for good national planning, policy formulation and service delivery.

According to him, the task of gathering Vital Statistics gets harder for a growing Filipino nation as an archipelago like the Philippines. He expressed that the challenge can be addressed and not be limited by tested practices of the past but through innovations. New problem requires new solutions which science and technology can provide. The internet, computers, and other inventions are among the tools that can be useful in the vital statistics laboratory.

Aware that gaining momentum to introduce reforms in the government is not easy, Justice Miranda encouraged the participants to take the opportunity of considering the 9NWCR as a perfect venue to experiment and to improve on the roles being played by each individual in the challenges in civil registration and vital statistics as nothing beats a combined wisdom in formulating solutions.

In the end, he reminded everyone not to forget that the work they do empowers every Filipino. An empowered Filipino is a stronger

building block.

Likewise, he encouraged everyone to be the enablers of Filipino Nation's aspirations for a better life, to focus and not to let critics distract this focus and show to the world how we use Civil Registration for nation building.

Ms. Nicole Dane Navea and Mr. Jordan John Arnaez served as the masters of ceremonies of the day. They made a roll call of the participants present in the venue which now totalled 1,420 as of end of registration for the day.



SESSION 1 - #napapanahongCRVS



Assistant National Statistician Editha Orcilla of the PSA- Civil Registration Service presented the “Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) Decade Review.”

She shared that CRVS Decade 2015-2024 is a part of the global campaign towards Universal Registration which was started during the Ministerial Conference in the Asia and the Pacific in Thailand and which came up with two major outcomes

and three goals.

The PSA laid down its plans for the CRVS Decade 2015-2024 which consisted of relevant activities that will be conducted at the national and sub-national level in partnership with various stakeholders, both from the public and the private sectors. In 2015, the Philippines submitted to the UN-ESCAP the national targets of the Philippines related to the Regional Action Framework (RAF). It has also specified the roles of member-agencies to the CRVS IAC as well as the City/Municipal Civil Registrars in the attainment of the CRVS Goals.

While ANS Orcilla mentioned what has already been done by the Philippines as its contribution to the CRVS Decade, she also enumerated the essential things that are yet to be done and the need for

stakeholders and partners to continue to work together in living the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) slogan, “Leave no one behind” and CRVS Decade slogan, “Get every Pinoy and Pinay in the Picture”, in order that the CRVS Decade shared vision will surely materialize.

She also mentioned about some issues of the current times on 1) same sex marriage, and if the PSA will accept the documents?; 2) the adoption of a child by two females, as to who will be the father and the mother that will be indicated in the birth certificate?, and 3) how to register and what will be the citizenship of an adult foundling? She also informed the participants that there will be a revised form for Certificate of Death, where the causes of death will be at the back. This will be available some time in November 2018.

Dr. Maria Luisa S. Agamata, Director IV of the Civil Service Commission’s Public Assistance and Information Office presented a paper on “Managing Excellent Public Service.”

Before she proceed with her presentation, Dr. Agamata shared her realization of three things upon hearing all the speakers before her and they are “Technology, Focus, and Innovation” which, according to her, are the same key messages that she got from a recent similar convention she attended in California with former US President Obama as the resource person.

In her assessment, the 9NWCR is a capacity building activity and congratulated the PSA and LCRs. She was looking also at three words – solid, responsive, and world class. At the end of her presentation, she invited the participants to look at CRVS’ rock solid data, super responsive responses, and sustainably world class service.

She further asked what excellence is and what technology do we need? According to her, it is bulls-eye technology, and for focus, it should be laser focus. For innovation, it should be a never- ending innovation, challenging the prototype, counter-typing the prototype.

For her, excellence is defined as what Aristotle said, it is not an act, it is a habit. The excellence part is in the hands of all players and stakeholders. She added that excellent public service can be seen through the best practices of Georgia, Kenya, and New Zealand. She shared the result of the study on “Enhanced Anti-red Tape Act Report Card” by the Ateneo School of Government and USAID which cited improvements in the delivery in public service in the Philippines as manifested in the GSIS and PhilHealth cases. She elaborated on RA 9485 of 2007 otherwise known as The Anti-red Tape Act (ARTA) of 2007 which is monitored through the Report Card Survey, Contact Center ng Bayan, and Hotline 8888. She also provided information on the new law coined about the “Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Delivery of Government Service Act of 2018” signed in May 2018 which covers frontline and non-frontline services, including Consular Offices abroad.

She reported that at the CSC, processes have been revisited to meet the prescribed number of transaction days. She reminded that each government agency has to shake up its operation to meet the guidelines as the law will be implemented after 30 days that it was signed. She likewise presented ideas on how the PSA can achieve excellent public service by anchoring it operations to what the rest of the world is doing.



Session 2. Participation of other government agencies on CRVS



Acting Director Ria E. Gorospe of the Consular Records Division, Office of the Consular Affairs, Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) discussed the “Civil Registration Issues Experienced by Philippine Foreign Service Posts (FSPS).” She shared that DFA Office of Consular Affairs, through the Consular Records Division, is the civil registration arm of the Department and is responsible for transmitting various civil registry reports emanating from the FSPs, such as the Reports of Birth, Marriage and Death, to the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) for proper registration.

She also pointed out that the consular officers at the FSPs are guided primarily by Foreign Service Circular 89-2003, which states that civil registry role performed by the officers abroad is ministerial and reportorial in nature.

Evident to this, she highlighted various issues and concerns encountered by FSPs which include, among others, 1) the difference in naming conventions of the Philippines and the host countries; 2) dual citizenship; 3) report of birth of illegitimate children; 4) clerical correction on sex of children born abroad; 5) assumed identity cases; 6) registration of proxy marriages; 6) correction of error in the nationality; 7) cases of Filipinos who remarry after having been divorced without obtaining recognition of foreign divorce decree; and, 8) other standing issues such as the case of Manila Economic and Cultural Office and cases of children born out of surrogacy.

Given the impact of above issues, she recommended that it would be opportune for the DFA and PSA to continue close engagement and establish clear cut policies to address said issues for the welfare and benefit of the Filipino people.

A paper on “Mainstreaming the CRVS in the Philippine Population Management Program (PPMP) Towards Responsive and Relevant CRVS Services and Products” was presented by Executive Director Juan Antonio A. Perez III, of the Commission on Population (POPCOM).

He shared that the PPMP has three program components which are (1) Responsible Parenthood and Family Planning; (2) Adolescent Health Development (AHD) and; (3) Population and Development Integration.

Director Perez emphasized that POPCOM, as one of the unwavering partners of Philippine Statistics Authority and being a member of the Inter-Agency Committee on CRVS, champions the CRVS through mainstreaming it in the PPMP.



CRVS is being promoted by the Agency in Pre-Marriage Orientation and Counseling. Moreover, it is being utilized as 1) a source of data for the monitoring and evaluation of the PPMP; 2) as a means of accurate measurement of maternal mortality; and, 3) as a source of data for local development planning. He also commended on the good practice at the local level in terms of teenage pregnancy tracking system and profiling of illegitimate births.

He concluded his paper by proposing initiatives to further mainstream the CRVS in the PPMP through the promotion of the CRVS system as a source of data in establishing population registry and in tracking population movement at the local level; and in projecting population for better targeting in program interventions.

Atty. Melvin C. Suarez from Office of the Chief State Counsel, Legal Staff and Refugees and Stateless Persons Protection Unit (RSPPU) of the Department of Justice presented a paper entitled “Relevant Timely Issues on Civil Registration.”

His paper focused on the issues encountered during the implementation of the “Registration and Confirmation of Nationality of Persons of Indonesian Descent (PID) in Mindanao,” a project of the Philippines in Indonesia.

Atty. Suarez mentioned that the PID is a population in the Philippines that can be considered to be in situation of “statelessness.” Article 1 of the United



Nation Stateless Convention defines a stateless person as someone who is “not recognized as a national by any state under the operation of its law.”

He pointed out relevant and substantial issues that have been identified during the project’s implementation which are 1) the need of a holistic or comprehensive approach for an effective information

dissemination on the legal significance of civil registration, and the logistical challenges of the stakeholders concerned; 2) the “limited” supervision of the PSA over LCRs in regards to its developed functions; 3) the accuracy of entries of information contained in the certificates of live birth and its legal implications; 4) updated and accurate statistical information on civil registration; 5) replication of LCRs’ best practices experienced in the PID Project; and, 6) the prospect of the Badjao (*sama dilaut*) registration and confirmation of nationality.

He ended his presentation by extending his appreciation to the LCRs that participated in the project especially those who shared their best practices.



AWARDING OF THE OUSTANDING LCROs FOR 2016

CATEGORY:

- 1 **EXTRA SMALL CATEGORY**
 1st Place Samal, Bataan
 2nd Place San Luis, Aurora
 3rd Place Dinalungan, Aurora
 4th Place San Vicente, Camarines Norte
 5th Place Laguindingan, Misamis Oriental
 6th Place Dilasag, Aurora
 7th Place San Lorenzo, Camarines Norte
 8th Place Asipulo, Ifugao
 9th Place Padre Burgos, Quezon
 10th Place Maribojoc, Bohol



- 2 **SMALL CATEGORY**
 1st Place Maria Aurora, Aurora
 2nd Place Dingalan, Aurora
 3rd Place Dipaculao, Aurora
 4th Place Salug, Zamboanga Del Norte
 5th Place General Luna, Quezon
 6th Place Bagac, Bataan
 7th Place Dasol, Pangasinan
 8th Place Casiguran, Aurora
 9th Place Kasibu, Nueva Viscaya
 10th Place Castillejos, Zambales

- 3 **MEDIUM CATEGORY**
 1st Place Sta. Cruz, Marinduque
 2nd Place Carmona, Cavite
 3rd Place Penablanca, Cagayan
 4th Place Caluya, Antique
 5th Place Camalig, Albay
 6th Place Las Nieves, Agusan del Norte
 7th Place Presentacion, Camarines Sur
 8th Place Siquijor, Siquijor
 9th Place Rosario, Cavite
 10th Place Angadanan, Isabela



- 4 **LARGE CATEGORY**
 1st Place Boac, Marinduque
 2nd Place Baler, Aurora
 3rd Place Santo Tomas, Davao del Norte
 4th Place Tayabas, Quezon
 5th Place Sta. Catalina, Negros Oriental
 6th Place Talibon, Bohol
 7th Place Calabarra, Camarines Sur
 8th Place Island Garden City of Samal, Davao del Norte
 9th Place Libon, Albay
 10th Place Bacacay, Albay

- 5 **EXTRA LARGE CATEGORY**
 1st Place General Mariano, Alvarez Cavite
 2nd Place Brooke Point, Palawan
 3rd Place Lubao, Pampanga
 4th Place Candelaria, Quezon
 5th Place Aurora, Masbate
 6th Place City of Alaminos, Pangasinan
 7th Place Talavera, Nueva Ecija
 8th Place Silang, Cavite
 9th Place Silay City, Negros Occidental
 10th Place City of General Trias, Cavite



- 6 **NEW CATEGORY
 SUPER EXTRA LARGE CATEGORY**
 1st Place City of Balanga, Bataan
 2nd Place General Santos City, Cotabato
 3rd Place Batangas City
 4th Place Bacoor City, Cavite
 5th Place City of Tagum, Davao del Norte
 6th Place Cebu City
 7th Place Angeles City, Pampanga
 8th Place Pasay City
 9th Place Tuguegarao City, Cagayan
 10th Place Tagbilaran City, Bohol

The day one of 9NWCR ended at 4:50 pm.